

[7 December, 2006]

RAJYASABHA

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Several countries including US, UK and Australia have shared with India their approach to the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718, which was adopted unanimously by the Security Council on October 14, 2006 under Article 41 of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. The Resolution obliges all member States of the United Nations to adopt restrictive measures in specified areas against North Korea.

Taro Aso Programme for human exchange

1683. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a programme *viz* "Taro Aso Programme for Human Exchange" with Japanese Government;

(b) if so, the details of the programme and how many people have been sent to Japan so far under this Programme, during the year 2006; and

(c) the number of applications that are pending and what action are being taken on these pending applications to avoid the losing of current years Quota?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During the official visit of Foreign Minister Taro Aso of Japan to India from January 3-4, 2006, the decision of the Japanese side to launch the "Aso Programme", which would involve exchange of 4000 persons over the next three years in the fields of Japanese language, technology, youth interaction, etc., was conveyed. The Indian side expressed its appreciation for this initiative, which would promote people-to-people contacts. The Programme is an initiative of the Government of Japan and is being implemented by the Japanese side.

Pact with China for tourists

1684. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Sikkim have asked Government to sign a pact with China to allow Indian tourists to travel to China through the recently opened Nathu-La Pass;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent would this help to boost tourism between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Views of PM on terrorism

†1685. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL, AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the views expressed by Prime Minister on the issue of terrorism who was invited specially in the recently held Summit of organization of eight developed countries;

(b) the reaction of the G-8 countries thereon; and

(c) the assurance given to deal with the terrorism in the country along with the cooperation to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Prime Minister expressed the view that terrorism being a principal challenge, it was the duty of every country to ensure that its territory was not used for terrorist purposes and to assist in bringing perpetrators of terrorist acts to justice.

(b) and (c) The G-8, Brazil, China, Mexico, South Africa, the Chairman of the Council of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Chairman of the African Union and the Heads of International Organizations participating in the Summit adopted, along with India, a Statement expressing their willingness to take all necessary measures to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of the terrorist attacks in India on 11 July 2006 and other such attacks, as well as those who incited the perpetrators to commit them.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.